

Babel and the dispersion of the first inhabitants, by means of the confusion of the ancient language.

This was a lapse of time quite sufficient to have enabled explorers to have traversed them, or even the whole earth, if companies had been sent out in different directions, for that express purpose, and to return again with their accounts to Noah. If the supposition of Adam Clarke, and others, be correct ; which is, that at that time, the *whole* land of the globe was so situated as that no continent was quite separate from the others by water, as they are now ; so that men could traverse by land the whole globe at their will : If so, even America may have been known to the first nations, as well as other parts of the earth.

This doctrine of the union of continents, is favored, or rather founded on a passage in the Book of Genesis, 10th chap. 20th ver., where it is stated that one of the sons of Eber was PELEG, so named, because in *his days*, the *earth* was divided ; the word *Peleg*, probably signifying *division*, in the Noetic language.

"The *birth* of Peleg was about an hundred years after the flood, the very time when Babel was being builded. But we do not imagine this great convulsionary division of the several quarters of the globe, took place till perhaps an hundred years after the birth of Peleg, on account of the peculiar latitude of the expression, "in the *days* of Peleg." Or, it may have been even two hundred years after the birth of Peleg, as this person's whole life was but two hundred and thirty-nine years, so that Noah overlived him eleven years.

"In the days of Peleg," therefore, may as well be argued to mean near the close of his life, as at any other period ; this would give time for a very considerable knowledge of the earth's countries to have been obtained ; so that Noah could have made a judicious division of it among the posterity of his sons.

This grand division of the earth, is supposed, by some, to have been only a *political* division ; but by others, a physical or geographical one. This latter opinion is favored by Adam Clarke. See his comment on the 25th verse of the 10th chapter of Genesis, as follows : "A separation of *Continents* and islands from the main land, the earthy parts having been united in one great continent, previous to the days of Peleg." But at this era, when men and animals had found their way to the several quarters of the earth, it